



STARCROSS community

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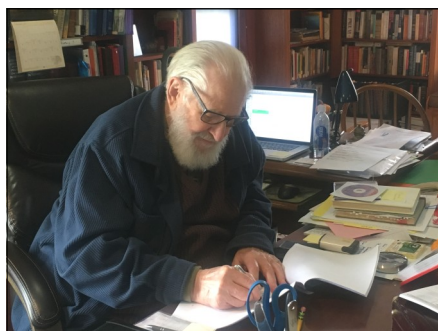
Autumn 2019

Sharings

Starcross Monastic Community Newsletter

BROTHER TOBY'S REFLECTION: "IT IS TIME TO TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER"

It is so important to constantly realize that **what we can practically do to build a better future for ourselves and those who follow us is to take care of each other — to heal each other.**



Helping each other begins with being aware of other people's hurts. This was what Matsuo Basho (1644-1694)

was trying to express in one of his greatest poems, written only a few weeks before he died. He was too ill to attend a poetry reading at a student's home and so he sent a poem. Like most haiku it can be rendered into English in many different ways. I choose to follow in the direction of our friend Cliff Edwards, and put it this way,

*Deep autumn,
My neighbor —
how is he doing?*

It seems to me that people who have accepted that they are on the final journey of life often

have great wisdom and can express it in a simple and profound way. I think Basho was saying that he no longer had to worry about tomorrow, and at such a moment he could genuinely escape from himself and ask,

How is my neighbor doing? Our friend Liz Mullins says that asking that question is the sign of a mature society. I think she is right. And if it's not being asked in the palaces of power, it is especially important for it to be asked on the roads and streets where each of us live.

I believe we are going to work things out somehow. The old arc of history can be relied upon to bend in the right direction but it could take much longer than we would like. I will close with a quote from William Carlos Williams,

One thing I am convinced more and more is true, and that is this: The only way to be truly happy is to make others happy. When you realize that and take advantage of the fact, everything is made perfect.

[Excerpt from 9.6.2019 Friday Reflection]



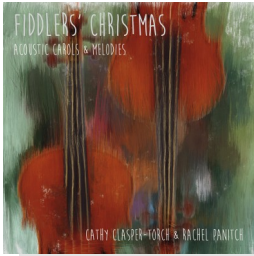
OLIVES

After a small harvest in 2018, Sister Julie is looking forward to a huge crop this year. Our 1800 trees are loaded! Email Julie (sj@starcross.org) if you'd like to help harvest. Don't forget to order some delicious Olio Nuovo for holiday gifts!

See our Holiday Gift insert for more information.

HOLIDAY ORDERS

Enclosed you will find our 2019 brochure! The fresh, beautiful Noble Fir wreaths are a cherished tradition in many homes. Luscious dried fruits or inspirational books make wonderful gifts. Each order helps our work continue. As one of our good friends says, "The holidays don't start until the Starcross wreath is up!" *Thank you!*



CHRISTMAS CD SPECIAL!

The first 50 people who place orders for a Starcross Wreath will receive a **free gift** of *FIDDLERS' CHRISTMAS*, a wonderful collection of carols from a variety of folk traditions, by our friend Cathy Clasper-Torch. We love this CD and play it throughout the holidays.

FOOD PANTRY

Twice a month our barn overflows with excited kids and their parents stocking up on groceries, clothing, books and toys. We purchase supplies from a local food bank and supplement with fresh organic produce grown here at Starcross. Many working families can barely make ends meet as the cost of living is so high. The pantry makes things a little easier for our neighbors.



One of our summer helpers (from Russia) learning to make applesauce!

STAY IN TOUCH!

As noted, Toby's piece in this issue is an excerpt from a recent Friday Reflection. A friend wrote us recently,

"There is so much that is heart breaking, sad, unfair, frustrating and unnecessary in our world that it's hard not to become depressed. Yet your missives always make me see the glass more than half full and remind me of all the wonderful things going on"

We are grateful to engage with our community through writing and dialogue. If you're not subscribed already, we invite you to join our e-list, and engage with us on a weekly basis through similar Friday Reflections, Haiku, and notices of special events and sales. We never share our list. Email community@starcross.org to sign-up, or follow along with us on social media via our Facebook & Instagram pages!

UGANDA UPDATE



There is a new rural health center in an underserved Ugandan village. Founding doctor, Ivan Kabanda, grew up at the Starcross Kin Worldwide (SKW) House of Hope and was educated by SKW sponsors. Dr. Ivan provides villagers with immunizations, minor surgery, HIV education and testing, community health outreach as well as admitting patients for urgent care. Ivan was a 10 year old orphan when we met. A serious student, he walked miles to school hoping to become a doctor and open a clinic so people like his parents wouldn't have to die. He did it! We are very happy that Ivan has realized his dreams and is saving lives every day.



GARDEN

Everything we grow is now officially Certified Organic! Due to late spring rains, the garden got off to a slow start but now is going strong. Folks from all over visit our Honor Produce Stand, and after sharing food with the pantry, the local school, and anyone in need, we still have plenty to preserve for the winter for all of us at Starcross.



WELCOME CHLOE

Meet our wonderful new Executive Assistant Chloe Clasper-Torch! You will notice Chloe's special touch in everything from the Friday Reflections to the soon-to-be-updated Starcross Monastic Community website. With Instagram and Facebook posts, she is bringing us into the modern digital world. Chloe's family has been connected to Starcross from the beginning. We are delighted to have Chloe's kindness, competence and bubbly energy among us.

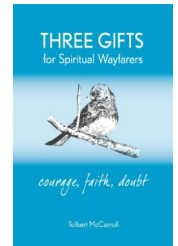


REMEMBERING LOVED ONES

At our evening meditation/Vespers service, we read aloud the names, dates of birth and death and a few sentences, about people who were special to our friends. If you would like to have someone commemorated in this way, please call 1-800-960-1500, email community@starcross.org. There is no charge. It is our honor and privilege to do this.

BROTHER TOBY'S WRITING

Yes, he will soon be 89 but Brother Toby watches, listens, and shares his keen insights in each Friday Reflection. His latest book, **THREE GIFTS FOR SPIRITUAL WAYFARERS: *Courage, Faith, Doubt***, came out in 2018 and is available in our Holiday Gift catalog! Keep an eye out for a new book in the coming year, working title, *Violet Seekers*.



THANK YOU!

We reached our goal! Our 2019 Annual Fund appeal brought in the additional dollars needed to sustain our Annual Budget. Thank you to so many friends who shared from their hearts; were touched by the encouraging messages of support. We feel truly blessed.



CELEBRATING MILESTONES

Weddings are very rare here! Which means, we are all the more excited to announce the marriage of David McCarroll and Angela Park on October 5th, in our chapel! Brother Toby's son David, violinist of the Vienna Piano Trio, grew up at Starcross, and is very involved in sustaining the future of Starcross. Angela, cellist, performs widely throughout Europe and Asia. Their home is in Berlin. *Congratulations!*

HELP THE STARCROSS STORY CONTINUE

You can remember Starcross through a provision in your will or trust, or as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or IRA charitable contribution. Starcross Monastic Community is a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Contributions are tax deductible. Our Tax ID is 94-1687876. *Questions?* Call us at (800) 960-1500

STARCROSS: CARING FOR THE EARTH AND ITS PEOPLE



Starcross is a place of beauty and peace. Yes, it's an active organic farm. Equally important though is the work we do to maintain the land as sacred space for people who come here in search of solace. We try to make the world a better, kinder place. People often tell us they are glad we are here, doing what we do... *So are we!*

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AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2019

Inside this issue of
SHARINGS:

- 2019 Holiday Gift Insert
- Uganda Update
- Celebrating Milestones
- Remembering Loved Ones
- Brother Toby's Writings

Follow us!  

STARCROSS MONASTIC COMMUNITY

Is a small, independent, multi-faith community, living peaceful lives in the contemplative tradition and offering encouragement to folks on all spiritual paths. Our emphasis is on spiritual growth, preserving the land, helping others and the world.

Our organic farm is in the coastal hills of Sonoma County, CA. We've cared for children with unique gifts and needs, many of whom were born HIV positive. We've established HOUSES OF HOPE for AIDS orphans in Romania and Uganda.